

Art Unit: 3725

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in an interview with Mr. I. Zvorovsky on August 21, 2003.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. **(Amended)** A method of producing curved lengths of spring band steel, comprising the steps of bending a spring band steel (10) which is made up of lengths of spring band steel (11) that adjoin one another and are of one piece with one another, between three support points (23-25), which are spaced from each other in a spring band steel advancing direction and rest against alternating band sides of the spring band steel (10); at a subsequent support point (32) downstream of the three support points (23-25), bending back by a lesser bending degree than during the bending by the three support points (23-25) in an opposite direction, cutting the length of spring band steel (11) that is bent from the spring band steel (10); and establishing a last one of the three support points (25) for the bending of the spring band steel as a cutting edge (30) on which a cutting blade (31) is conveyed in order to cut the length of the spring band steel (11) before the subsequent support point (32).